GEOGRAPHY 426

Final Project

Your final project is to design a map of your choosing and to present to the class during the final week of class. You are responsible for retrieving geographic data on your own and presenting it cartographically.

Please note: You will be held to a high standard on this project. You know much more about design now and you are much more skilled with the software than you were when we started.

Part 0: Map Data: The most important step: Week of April 11th
Throughout this semester you have worked with various types of map data. The one thing these data all had in common is that they were always provided to you. For the final project you are responsible for discovering your own data for your own map design! The search for map data is one of the most difficult and important tasks a cartographer faces. There are millions of brilliant map ideas but most of them are never realized due to a lack of available datasets. The first major hurdle in your final project involves finding a good data source. This is not easy. Your final map will only be as interesting as your data. Data quality is the biggest influence on your project’s potential.

Remember: This is a map design class, we will be grading you on the design of the map, not your GIS analysis abilities. The goal of this project it to make a beautiful map with data of your choosing, not to just find data.

Part I: Project proposal and Proof of Data: Beginning of lab, week of April 11th
The proposal is simply a few paragraphs (one page max) and a graphic proof that you have your data. Identify the following:

1. A map data source (Where did you get your data??)
2. A map theme/purpose (What is your map about?)
3. An intended audience (Who would be interested in your map?)
4. A predicted workflow (How will you turn your raw data into a beautiful map?)
5. Why does this data need to be mapped?
6. A pre-rough draft of the design (Graphically prove that you have the data).

Perhaps you might want to include background information on what you are mapping, additional maps, pictures, text, graphs, tables etc. This part is worth 20% of your final project score.

Part II: Rough Draft and Workshop: During lecture, the week of April 19th
The second part of the final project involves creating a mandatory rough draft (that will be graded) and presenting it to your peers. Drafts help identify strengths and weaknesses within your approach before it’s too late. This map has to be good, but obviously not great. Your peers will help to identify things that still need to be fixed and note what you have already done well. I won't be checking every spelling, neat line, or legend element – but rather just looking at the draft as a more general assessment of your progress. This part is worth 10% of your total project score.

Part III: Final Draft: April 26th 9:00AM
This is the main deliverable of your final project. By 9:00AM (not a minute later) on April 26th you need to:
- email Kirk and Josh the final .ai or .fla file of your project
- email Kirk and Josh a working link to where your final draft appears online

This part is worth 50% of your final project score.
Kirk: kg@msu.edu
Josh: stevensj2@gmail.com
Part IV: Final Draft Presentation: During lecture, week of April 26th

During the final week of classes, you will present your final project to the class. During the presentation sessions you will have the opportunity to see what everyone else has done as well as explain a little bit of the process that went into your map design. Below are some talking points to explain your project to your classmates.

I. Map Data
   A. Where did you get the data for your Map?
      Example: I got my data from the: ESRI Sample dataset, and the US Census, CIESIN,
   B. Metadata! Who created your data? When was the data created? How reliable is the data?

II. Map purpose
   A. What is the purpose of this map?
      Example: to be viewed digitally, to be interactive etc.
   B. Who is the target audience? Who would most likely use your map. Be very specific.
      Example: Geophysicists who would like to know more about the geothermal activities of Southern Africa.

III. Map design
   A. What were the major design issues that you faced as you worked on this map?
   B. What visual variables did you manipulate while designing your map?
   C. Describe one aspect of your map design that is especially unique and/or one aspect of your map in which you put a lot of effort. What made you decide this aspect was important enough to tackle?
   D. Describe the biggest impediment you faced in your map design?
      (e.g. did you try something that didn’t work the way you expected? Did you have difficulty with a particular aspect of your design) AND how did you solve this problem?

Remember the Final Project is worth 15% of your final grade! There are five graded components of the project. The breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is Due?</th>
<th>What is it worth?</th>
<th>Wednesday Lab Due Date</th>
<th>Thursday Lab Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposal (email)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4/13 (10:20am)</td>
<td>4/14 (3:00pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Draft Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4/19 (Lecture)</td>
<td>4/21 (Lecture)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Draft (email)</td>
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<td>4/26 (9:00AM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4/26 (Lecture)</td>
<td>4/28 (Lecture)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED. Meaning you will receive a zero if any of these elements are even 1 minute late – DO NOT MISS THESE DEADLINES!